Percentage of Land Area in the Country under the Forest Cover

195. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the percentage of land area in the country under the forest cover upto the end of 1991 ;

(b) the area depleted from the forest cover during the last three years, year-wise ; and

(c) the details of efforts being made to bring more land under forest cover and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) As per the third assessment of the forest cover just concluded, based on visual interpretation of landsat imageries pertaining to the period 1987—89, the actual forest cover is 19.49% of the total geographical area of the country.

(b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, carries out assessment of forest cover of the country on a two years cycle basis. As per the latest assessment, there has been a net increase in forest cover of the country by 56,000 hectares, thus registering an annual increase of 28,000 hectares.

(c) Following efforts are being made to bring more land under forest cover :

(a) A massive programme of afforestation including social and farm forestry, under the 20 Point Programme is under implementation in all the States and Union Territories.

(b) Government of India have also issued guidelines for Peoples' participation in management and development of degraded forests and their active involvement in afforestation programme. Afforestation to the tune of 17 million hactares has been done during 1952 to 1990.

Hazardous Industrial Units in Delhi

196. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3036 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th March, 1992 and state :

(a) whether each of the other units on whom Improvement Notices were served as those units did not comply with the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have since complied with the various regulations ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Of the identified 22 major accident hazard installations in Delhi, 13 units had complied with most of the provisions of the Factores Act, 1948, and the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Of the remaining 9 units, 3 units have since partially complied with the regulations, one unit has been prosecuted while one has been registered only recently. The remaining 4 units have been asked to comply with regulations within the time-frame.

Chairman of Central Pollution Control Board

197. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govt.'s attention has been drawn to the Interview of the former Chairmaan, Central Pollution Control